



Minutes
Gateways Network Working Group Meeting
March 13, 2002

Present: Robert Pickett (phone), Wilmer Henniger, Ron Weis, Marci Ross, Pat Stuntz, Melanie Teems, Brook Lenker, Marian Huber, Skip Meehan, Jonathan Doherty

Introductions: Melanie Teems, Acting Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Trust, will be representing the Trust on the Working Group pending selection of a new Executive Director. David Minges recently left CBT.

Minutes of January 23: The minutes of the January 23, 2002 Working Group meeting were reviewed and approved with the deletion of John Davy and the addition of Robert Pickett to the members present list.

Pending nominations: Nominations for Fort Washington Park and Nassawango Creek Preserve/Furnace Town were approved.

Past grant status report: Members reviewed the status of FY2000 and FY2001 grants; see attached spreadsheet for list and status. Among specific comments noted were:

- Continued emphasis on tracking results of distribution for all publications
- Robert Pickett will check on status of TEA-21 grant at Urbanna
- Provide copies of all grant products for Working Group members at the grant review meeting
- Melanie Teems will check on contact and timing for upcoming meeting of MD state park friends groups
- Ensure gateways website is cited on publications and appropriate panels.

Other updates:

- Paige Weis, Bob Carter, Meriwether German and Jonathan Doherty recently met with representatives of Nauticus and the City of Norfolk. A hub nomination is anticipated.
- Gateways Network Map & Guide is scheduled for updates this spring with new version produced by May. Will need anticipated distribution counts for MD OTD, VTC and others.
- Lighthouse Guide/Poster is underway with photo rights acquired, illustrators hired and writing and design proceeding. Product will be both a guide and a saleable poster. Late spring publication anticipated.
- On-line needs survey of Gateways is nearing completion. Results expected for May meeting.
- Gateways Network support organization exploration continuing; expect report at May meeting.

- MD OTD's Destination Maryland includes two pages on Gateways; 70% of OTD advertising this year focuses on Chesapeake Bay. VTC's tourism guide features Bay site on cover.
- Chesapeake Bay Magazine running 10 profiles from Network supported book "A window on the Bay" this year. Look for them in current issues. Book due out in December.
- Pat Stuntz noted Greenwell State Park project to develop handicapped access canoe/kayak launch as a possible concept Gateways may want to help advance in the future.
- Gateways annual report is at the printer, with copies due by March 22.
- Pat Stuntz noted that letters of support for Gateways funding from Congress are timely and needed.

2002 Grant Review Process: Packets of pending grant applications were distributed to members (packets will be mailed to those not in attendance). 43 applications were received; 1 disqualified due to missing required components; \$1.18 million requested. Approximately 900K + is available for grants this year. A decision on whether second round is needed must await April 10 meeting given the volume of requests. No advance review, except for completeness has been performed on applications yet. NPS will review matches, NEPA, etc. over the next several weeks. NPS provided substantial advance consultation for many proposals in order to improve overall quality; all consultations were provided with the caveat that funding decisions are made by the Working Group as a whole.

Summary review sheets are due back to NPS by 10:00 am Wednesday, April 3. The review meeting is scheduled for 9:00 am Wednesday, April 10.

Next Meetings :

April 10 – Grant application review – 9:00 am until done (3:00?)

May 14 – Network-wide priorities; needs survey; support organization update